

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 19, 2002 with claims 1-18. Claims 19-29 were added by an amendment filed on October 16, 2003. Claim 29 has been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1-28 remain pending. Claims 1, 12 and 18 are the pending independent claims.

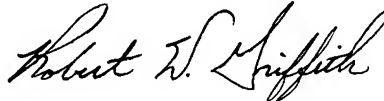
In the outstanding final Office Action dated November 25, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,480,103 to McCarthy et al.

In response to the rejection, Applicants have canceled claim 29 without prejudice, solely in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Applicants acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-28.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-28 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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Robert W. Griffith
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 48,956
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-4547